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MAP NOTICES.

Since our last notice the United States Geological Survey has issued 39 sheets of the general atlas of the United States, besides two special maps of mining districts. These sheets are scattered widely over the country. Two are in western Maine and bear the names Sebago Lake and Bridgton. These sheets, upon the scale of 1:62,500, in 20-foot contours, represent a portion of the glaciated region of that State, covered with high, rounded hills, and dotted with glacial lakes.

Two sheets are presented us from Vermont, known as Manchester and Pawlet, comprising parts of the Green Mountains, and including several summits exceeding 3,000 feet in altitude.

In New York there is but one sheet, Fonda, comprising a part of the lower valley of Mohawk River.

In Minnesota are two sheets, representing the "twin cities," Minneapolis and St. Paul, and the adjacent country, upon a scale of 1:62,500, and with a contour interval of 20 feet. They are covered with the irregular, infinite detail of glacial deposits, with innumerable little ponds, which are of so recent formation that many of them have not yet established outlets. The great trough of the Minnesota River, indicating the former existence of a much larger stream, is well shown.

From North Dakota are three sheets, one of them, Fargo, being comprised partly in Minnesota. This includes a portion of Red River valley, the former bed of Lake Agassiz, which has been drained so recently that the river system is in an extremely infantile condition. Streams are few in number and have as yet excavated merely ditches of trifling depth. The country here represented is probably as level as any part of the earth. The other two sheets in North Dakota, known by the names of Tower and Eckelson, lie west of the Fargo sheet, extending over to James River, and include a portion of the valleys of that stream and the Sheyenne, and a part of the eastern slope and summit of the Coteau des Prairies. This country is covered with small glacial deposits, interspersed with glacial lakes, and its drainage system has not made great progress in development since the retreat of the glacier.

In South Dakota are two sheets, known as Harney Peak and Oelrichs, both in the Black Hills, the former being in the central part of this mountain mass, while the latter is upon its southeastern border, and represents a portion of the hogback structure which the stratified beds surrounding the mountain mass have assumed. All the above sheets in the Dakotas are upon the scale of 1 : 125,000.

In Nebraska are eight sheets, all upon the scale of 1 : 125,000. These bear the names, Kearney, Lexington, Stromsburg, Arapahoe, Holdrege, Wood River, Red Cloud and Fremont. Most of them include portions of the valley of the Platte, representing it as a broad valley, ten to twelve miles in width, nearly level, and bordered upon either side by bluffs from 100 feet to 300 feet in height. Upon the south these bluffs are partly buried in sand hills, the sand having probably drifted there from the valley and bed of the river. This broad valley of the Platte extends from the forks of the river eastward nearly to Omaha. Upon the Fremont sheet, only a few miles west of Omaha, the broad valley ceases and the river turns into a narrow valley between bordering bluffs, in which it flows to its mouth. This broad valley of the Platte is a valley of deposition and the river is found flowing upon the higher part of the valley rather than along its lowest line. This is shown not only by the contour lines, but by the fact that its tributaries enter the valley and flow in it for many miles before being able to join the main river. This is notably the case with Elkhorn, Loup and Wood rivers, which flow for scores of miles along the northern edge of the valley before they find an opportunity to pour their waters into the river. Three of these Nebraska sheets represent country lying south of the Platte, mainly upon the drainage of the Republican Fork of Kansas River.

In Kansas there are five sheets, all upon the scale of 1 :125,000, and bearing the names, Ashland, Russell, Osborne, Plainville and Hays. They are mainly in the central part of the State and represent the region of the plains.

In Texas are three sheets. Brackett, which is southeast of the Llano Estacado, represents a region containing but little flowing water, and without much relief, with the exception of the Anacacho Mountains, a group of hills rising in the highest summit to an altitude of 1,500 feet. The other two sheets in Texas, which bear the names Rio Grande and Polvo, represent portions of the Rio Grande and the country on the United States side immediately adjacent.

In Colorado there is only one sheet, Pueblo, upon the scale of 1:125,000, and a detailed map of the Ten Mile Mining District, near Leadville.

From Montana is a special map of the mining region about Butte, upon the scale of 1 :15,000, showing with infinite detail the natural and cultural features of this, the greatest copper mining camp in the world. Not only is every house represented, but all mine openings, smelters, mining dumps, etc.

From California are ten sheets, all upon the scale of 1:62,500, and all grouped in the region known as Southern California, *i. e.*, south of the crest of the San Bernardino Mountains. They bear names as follows: Santa Monica, Pasadena, Pomona, San Bernardino, Anaheim, Downey, Redondo, Las Bolsas, San Pedro and Santa Ana. These sheets represent a region of great interest to the geologist, the health-seeker and the agriculturist, and warrant a somewhat detailed description.

Across the State stretches, from Colorado River to the Pacific coast, a range of mountains. Its different portions bear different names, the eastern, highest portion, being known as San Bernardino; north of Los Angeles it is called Sierra Madre, while the western part is known as San Buenaventura. Its highest peak, Baldy, has an altitude of more than 12,000 feet. From this peak, near the middle of the range, the mountains diminish in height east and west, reaching the west coast with an altitude not greater than 3,000 or 4,000 feet. The Sierra Nevada and Coast ranges unite with these mountains at their southern extremities.

North of this range, near the coast, stretch the Coast ranges and the fertile valleys between them. Farther east is the San Joaquin Valley, limited on the west by the Sierra Nevada. Still farther east, and forming the north base of the San Bernardino Range, is the Mojave desert, stretching between the Sierra and the Colorado River. This approaches, perhaps, as nearly to an absolute desert as any area on the continent. It has an almost level surface, broken only by volcanic buttes and short, narrow ranges, and a soil ranging from hard, alkaline clay to a loose, powdery consistency, and from coarse gravel to drifting sand. Its vegetation is strange, consisting of scattered bushes of various thorny species, cacti in great variety, and yucca. Among these the tree yucca is the most prominent, standing 20 to 30 feet in height, with straight stem and few branches, each tipped with its sheaf of bayonets.

This range is of granite, with no outlying foothills of stratified beds. On either side granite slopes rise abruptly from the valley. With the exception of a little timber near the summits of a few of the highest peaks, it is entirely devoid of forests. It is covered, however, with dense chaparral 6 to 8 feet in height, composed in large part of thorny bushes, forming an almost impenetrable abattis.

The range has been greatly eroded by streams, so that it presents an infinite detail of cañons, gulches and spurs. Indeed, the broader features of the range are almost concealed in the infinite variety of detail. This great multiplication of details seems to be a result of the want of forest cover to the range. Timbered mountains are commonly eroded into large, broad features, while bare mountains are eroded, as are these, into fine details.

The stream cañons and gulches are short, with steep slopes to the edge of the valley. Few of them carry water except in the winter, the rainy season, and then, for a time, they carry large volumes.

South of this range lies a valley sloping gently southward. Its western part is limited on the south by the Pacific Ocean, its eastern part by the San Jacinto Mountains. This valley is the garden of southern California. Near its western end is Los Angeles, near its eastern end San Bernardino, while between the two cities are numerous beautiful little towns, strung along the Southern Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroads. For fifty miles it is almost a continuous city, the towns being connected by orange orchards, vineyards and truck farms.

The climate of this valley is arid. Little rain falls upon it, and that little in the winter. The soil, however, is extremely fertile, and when irrigated becomes a veritable garden, while without irrigation it is a desert. Thus, one sees in close juxtaposition the widest contrasts, on one side of the road an almost tropical luxuriance of vegetation, on the other cacti and sterility.

This valley commences on the north with a somewhat steep southward slope, which gradually becomes more gentle, and finally rises a little as the base of the San Jacinto Mountains is neared. Its northern slopes present very interesting and significant details. An examination of it on the ground, or on a good map, shows that at the mouth of every cañon issuing from the mountains the land is higher than it is elsewhere, the form of the elevation being that of a part of a cone, with the apex at the cañon's mouth, and spreading southward. Upon this cone is commonly found the stream-bed, most of the year a dry bed of sand. It may be found upon the highest line of the cone or upon the side. It may be a single stream-bed, but more commonly it is divided downward, as is the case with the lower Mississippi, and these bifurcations may unite, forming in some cases an intricate network of stream-beds upon the cone. In some cases the stream-bed is found on one side of the cone, as though it had slid off from its position of unstable equilibrium.

This succession of "alluvial cones," as they are called, is the most interesting topographic feature of the valley. These cones are being formed by deposition of detritus—sand, gravel and soil brought down from the mountains by the streams when in flood. These streams, as was above stated, have steep courses in the mountains, and consequently flow with great velocity. On reaching the margin of the valley this velocity is suddenly checked, and consequently a large part of the detritus is dropped in the stream-bed and on the banks. Having thus built up its bed above the neighboring country, the stream, having an unstable course, leaves it, to take up a neighboring position. This bed in turn is built up and the stream abandons it for a new one.

In this way the stream builds up its alluvial cone, raising it when it flows upon its surface, widening it when flowing along its margin. The coarser detritus is, of course, dropped first, and is found at or near the mouth of the cañon, while the fine material is carried far down into the valley. At the mouth of the cañon are found great boulders weighing hundreds of pounds, which attest the enormous power of these streams when in flood.

Near the mountains these deposits of sand and gravel are of enormous thickness, and they form a great storehouse of water. In the wet season they are saturated from the streams, and they give up the water to the hundreds of artesian wells which have been bored in this valley. Indeed, the water supply for a large part of the irrigation of this valley is derived from these wells.

The State Forestry Commission of New Hampshire has published from the copper-plates of the U. S. Geological Survey a map comprising about 900 square miles, in the central and highest portion of the White Mountains. Besides the representation of topography this map shows, by a green tint, the distribution of woodland over the area, its outlines having been located accurately by surveyor. Of the entire area of 900 square miles represented on the sheet, it is probable that less than 50 square miles have been cleared, the rest being covered with forest.

Relief Map of New Jersey, 1896. John C. Smock, State Geologist, C. C. Vermeule, Topographer. Scale: Four miles to one inch. Julius Bien & Co., New York.

This map is another of the interesting series of by-products of the survey of New Jersey. The map of the State was originally published on the scale of one mile to an inch. From this map a model was prepared, which was exhibited at the World's Fair in

Chicago, and this relief map has been prepared from photographs of this model. The northern third of New Jersey is a hilly country, being intersected by numerous ridges of the Appalachian system. The southern two-thirds is almost a plain. Owing to the exaggeration of the vertical element in the model, this map gives a very false impression of the topography of the State. The relief of the hilly country is greatly exaggerated, while the lower part of the State is represented, not as a plain, but as a country of irregular hills. The principal purpose of such a map as this is educational, and as an educational factor it will be highly misleading. It is greatly to be regretted that the mistake of exaggerating the relief and thus falsifying the representation of topography, has been committed.

The execution of the work by the well-known firm of Bien & Co., is most admirable, leaving nothing to be desired in this respect, indeed, it is one of the finest examples of lithographic work which this country has yet produced.

A preliminary agricultural map of Tennessee, based on the distribution of geological formations, compiled from the most recent data, under the auspices of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station. Chas. W. Dabney, Jr., President. Photolith. by Hoen & Co., Baltimore, Md.

The soils of the United States may be broadly classified as: (A.) Those transported from a distance by glaciers, winds, rivers, etc. The soils of the northern United States were mainly derived from the rocks underlying more northern regions, whence they have been transported by the Great Northern Glacier. Those of the alluvial region of the Mississippi have largely been brought from the Great Plains. (B.) Indigenous soils which are formed by the disintegration of the underlying rocks, and are transported little if at all. Of the latter class are nearly all the soils of Tennessee, and therefore a geological, or more strictly, a lithological map of this State is a soil map.

This map is an adaptation of a geological map to the distribution of soils. This adaptation is effected by the subdivision of certain of the geological ages, separating limestones from sandstones, shales, etc. The legend, which is very voluminous, explains not only the several geological ages, and the character of their rocks, but the characteristics of the soils produced by their disintegration. The map is a clear presentation of the distribution of soils throughout the State.

Mapa de la Isla de Cuba. Published by J. L. Smith, Philadelphia, 1897. Scale: 25 miles to an inch.

This map was evidently published as an aid in the interpretation of war news from the island, and in that capacity it will be found convenient; although its usefulness might have been increased by the addition of more place locations and names. The relief of the island which plays so important a part in the war is inadequately expressed. One distinct advance made by this map consists in the use of Spanish place names, instead of the English equivalents.

Besides the general map of the island, the sheet contains enlarged maps of Habana province and city.

Petermanns Mitteilungen for September, 1896, contains a botanical map of Northern Venezuela (Scale 1:3,000,000), accompanying a descriptive article by Prof. Dr. W. Sievers. It represents by tints the characteristic vegetation of different parts of the country, such as mangrove regions, coast vegetation, savannas, sand washes of the Llanos, etc. To this classification of the regions of indigenous vegetation are added cultural facts, such as the regions in which are cultivated coffee, cocoa, fruits, etc.

The *Mitteilungen* for October, 1896, contains "Original Karte von Ukambani und dem Kenia-Gebiet," von Joh. George Kolb, scale 1:1,000,000, illustrating Prof. Kolb's narrative of his two expeditions, 1894–1896. This portion of eastern Africa has, by virtue of the numerous expeditions which have traversed it, become thoroughly well known.

Petermanns Mitteilungen, Ergänzungsheft 117, contains "Der Nordfuss des Dagestan und das vorlagernde Tiefland bis zur Kuma," von Dr. G. Radde und E. Koenig. It is accompanied by a map of the Northwestern Caucasus, scale 1:1,500,000 (about 25 miles to an inch). Relief is expressed by crayon shading.

Petermanns Mitteilungen, Ergänzungsheft 118, contains "Reisen in Nord und Zentral Persien," von A. F. Stahl. It is accompanied by a map in 3 sheets, illustrating Gen. Stahl's journeys, on a scale of 1:825,000, or about 13 miles to an inch. Relief is expressed by crayon shading. The map shows in some detail the country south of the Caspian Sea (latitude 37°) to latitude 30°, and from long. 49° to 55°.

Carte Hypsométrique de la Partie Occidentale de la Russie d'Europe, et des Regions Limitrophes de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche-Hongrie, et de la Roumanie, par le Lieutenant-Général Alexis de Tillo. Échelle 1:1,680,000.

This map is contained in the *Annales de Géographie* of April 15, 1896. It represents the relief of the region described in the title, by means of contours and tints of color, ranging from deep green through browns and oranges to white. The contour interval is about 40 metres, each contour interval receiving a distinct shade of color, and thus making a wonderfully effective relief map.

The map includes the Karpathians and the Transylvanian Alps, rising from sea level to heights exceeding 2,500 metres.

Carte des formes de la Vie Végétale et Animale dans le Haut Nil: Carte des formes de la Vie Des Sociétés Humaines dans le Haut Nil. Dressée par E. de Martonne. Échelle 1: 6,000,000.

These maps are from *Annales de Géographie* of October 15, 1896. The first, colored to show forested, savanna, and desert areas, represents also the distribution of certain typical plants and animals. It is accompanied by a small map, showing rainfall and altitude.

The second represents the distribution of the natives by occupation, and is accompanied by a small map showing the density of population.

The *Annales de Géographie* of July 15, 1896, contains a small map of the Pamir, showing the progress made in dividing it up among civilized powers in the past 14 years. The feature of the map is the rapid progress made by Great Britain in acquiring territory in this far-away region. Either directly or by the aid of tributary tribes, this country has established claim to most of the Pamir, the summit of the world.

Service Géographique des Colonies. Mission Marchand: le Transnigérien le Bandama et le Bagoe, Carte Levée et Dressée de 1892 à 1895, par Le Capitaine Marchand. Scale 1: 500,000.

This map is an extensive contribution to our knowledge of the countries bordering on the Gulf of Guinea, lying mainly between the two forks of the river Bandama. The streams are printed in blue, routes of travel in red, and relief is expressed by brown hill shading. The forested regions are indicated by a green tint.

Ministère des Colonies. Côte d'Ivoire: Carte de la Région Cotière de Fresco au Cavally Levée et Dressée par H. Pobeguin, Administrateur Colonial par Ordre de M. le Gouverneur Binger, 1895–1896.

This map is comprised in eight sheets, together with a *tableau d'assemblage.* The scale of the sheets is 1:150,000. Besides the general map upon this scale there are detailed maps of towns and trading posts upon much larger scales.

The main map, which is printed entirely in black, represents the streams and principal routes of travel, settlements, native and European, and the relief, although the latter is but faintly expressed. Upon the maps of the towns and trading posts relief is expressed by contour lines.